

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

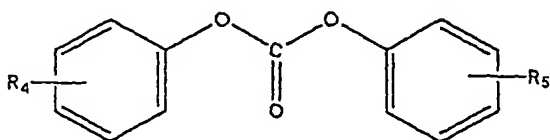
1. (currently amended): A method for producing a liquid crystalline polyester comprising melt-polymerizing aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid represented by the formula (I), aromatic diol represented by the formula (II), and aromatic dicarboxylic acid represented by the formula (III)

with using a diaryl carbonate represented by the formula (IV):[[.]]

HO-R<sub>1</sub>-COOH (I)

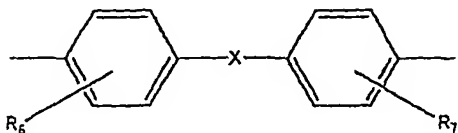
HO-R<sub>2</sub>-OH (II)

HOOC-R<sub>3</sub>-COOH (III)



(IV)

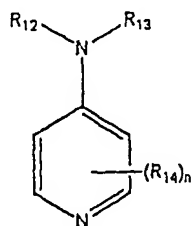
[[.]]wherein, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are an optionally substituted arylene group, R<sub>2</sub> is an optionally substituted arylene group or a group represented by the formula (V),



(V)

wherein  $R_4$  to  $R_7$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an acyloxy group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, or an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, and  $X$  is  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$ ,  $-SO_2-$ ,  $-CO-$ ,  $-C_6H_{10}-$ , or an alkylene group, and

wherein the melt-polymerization is carried out in the presence of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 1-methylimidazole, 2-methylimidazole, and a pyridine compound represented by the formula (VII):



(VII)

wherein  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, a cycloalkyl group with a carbon number of from 5 to 10, an aryl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, or an aralkyl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, and  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  may be combined with each other,  $R_{14}$  is an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, a cycloalkyl group with a carbon number of from 5 to 10, an aryl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, or an aralkyl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, and  $n$

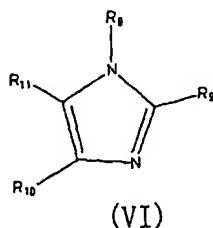
is an integer of from 1 to 4, and

solid-polymerizing the liquid crystalline polyester produced by the melt-polymerizing.

[[D]]

2. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein melt-polymerization

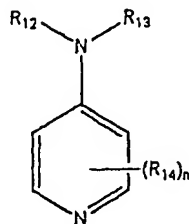
is carried out in a presence of imidazole compound represented by the formula (VI):[[.]]



[[C]]wherein, R<sub>8</sub> to R<sub>11</sub> are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 4, a hydroxymethyl group, a cyano group, a cyanoalkyl group with a carbon number of from 2 to 5, a cyanoalkoxy group with a carbon number of from 2 to 5, a carboxyl group, an amino group, an aminoalkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 4, an aminoalkoxy group with a carbon number of from 1 to 4, a phenyl group, a benzyl group, a phenylpropyl group, or a formyl group. [[D]]

3. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the melt-polymerization is carried out in a presence of pyridine compound represented by the formula

(VII):[[.]]



(VII)

[[()]]wherein R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, a cycloalkyl group with a carbon number of from 5 to 10, an aryl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, or an aralkyl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, and R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> may be combined with each other, R<sub>14</sub> is an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, a cycloalkyl group with a carbon number of from 5 to 10, an aryl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, or an aralkyl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, and n is an integer of from 1 to 4. [[]]

4. (canceled).

5. (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid (I) is from 30 to 80% by mole of a total 5 of the aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid (I), the aromatic diol (II) and the aromatic dicarboxylic acid (III), and a mol ratio of the aromatic diol (II) to the aromatic dicarboxylic acid (III) ((II)/(III)) is 90/100 to 100/90.

6. (original): A liquid-crystalline polyester obtained by the method according to Claim 1.

7. (canceled).